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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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PRICE FIVEPENCE

Registration Appeal Allowed

CONSIDERABLE publicity has been given in the Press to a decision of a County Court Judge dealing with the appeal against the decision of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer.

Two brothers had applied to be entered on the list of voters in respect of a non-resident occupation qualification. The Registration Officer rejected the application on the grounds of "the premises being occupied by a limited company". They then applied to be and were heard, but the Registration Officer upheld his rejection. The brothers then appealed to a County Court.

The Registration Officer stated that though the two brothers were originally tenants of the premises for which they had made application, they had since formed a company which had become the occupier of the premises. The company was entered on the rate book as occupier and pays the rates. He claimed that the brothers' occupation of the premises was by virtue only of their respective directorships of the company.

The brothers were the only shareholders of the company. At no time has there been any transfer to the company of any interest whatever in the lease of the premises, and the Judge asked what was the position of the brothers before the company was formed and answered:

They were tenants and they had possession and they could use the premises as they pleased—business purposes or any other purposes consistent with the covenants of their tenancy. They could allocate so much of their

time to the business of publicists and journalists as they pleased and dispose of the rest of their time in any other way they chose. Then they had possession, complete possession, exclusive possession; and of course complete control of the premises. They were in the fullest sense occupiers. Now the question has to be considered (partly law, partly fact) whether anything has happened arising out of the formation of the company which has altered the legal position . . .

His answer to this further question was no and that the brothers remained the only tenants and had in fact obtained a fresh agreement of tenancy for a further term. The company is an entity which has been allowed to use the premises for the purpose of carrying on business and is totally separate from the two brothers in their personal capacity he said.

The Judge went on to say that in his view they were in the fullest sense in occupation of the premises, not only tenants in the legal sense, but also using the premises both for carrying on their duties as directors and for private purposes.

The fact that the company had been entered in the rate book as occupier and pays the rates makes no difference at all. The fact that a person is rated in no way shows that that person has any legal right to the premises. Concluding, the Judge said:

The company itself is a licensee. The licence, given proper notice, can be terminated if the appellants choose to do so and in any case it does not exclude them from the occupation they always had or occupation in such form and extent as they may wish to enjoy in the future. The result is I find that the appellants succeed in these appeals and they must be entered on the register as tenants who are occupying these premises. The appeals will be allowed.

Go Canvassing in the Spring

THE polite relationship between the editor and me (e.g. "Hi, slowcoach, ain't that copy ready yet?") has been rudely disturbed and in fact I came very near to losing my appointment on the staff of the *Labour Organiser*. I have committed an inaccuracy. Will you please turn back to page 65, col. 1, line 6, strike out "15,000", and insert "150,000". That little nought, but oh, how much! And I cannot blame my typewriter, nor the printer (with whom I have one or two unsettled accounts, and I don't mean invoices, either). Alone I did it; I can explain but cannot excuse the momentary carelessness. My abject apologies to one and all, and I am selecting my Spring Suiting of ashes and sackcloth.

MENTION of spring, the arrival of official Summer Time, and the singing of a blackbird in next-door's apple tree, are a reminder that for all active Party workers the most pressing responsibility is the council elections, and by the time this issue is circulating there will remain not much more than a week to do what can be done to ensure that an increased number of Labour men and women will be handling your local affairs. Readers still young, or passably so, will remember the time when November 1st was polling day in the boroughs. Electioneering, i.e. canvassing, which is the essence of electioneering, is certainly done under pleasanter conditions nowadays, but it is not easier. The handicap one had to contend with in the last fortnight of October was the chill, the wet and the fog. The hindrance today, when it is daylight right up to a respectable man's supper-time, is that most of the people you must visit are "out".

THEY have left work at the same time as you did, but by the time you get into their street to convince them of the wisdom of voting Labour they are on the tennis courts, or at the cricket nets, or rolling those biased woods up the green. Or riding their bicycles, driving their little cars, listening to the band in the park, or just mooning about. Whatever they are doing, they are not *there* when you want them. To canvassers who are

infirm of purpose this is a great discouragement, and it causes many to say what's the use? So, unless the election agent is a person of forceful determination, a lot of canvassing isn't done.

Formerly it required hardihood to brave the elements; now it needs pertinacity to find the voters. But whatever persistence is necessary they must be found, for in most cases a poor canvass means a lost election.

When the local elections have been fought and won many Parties will turn to settling the final details of their Annual Outings. Why do so many of them travel *incog.*, making themselves indistinguishable from day trippers?

Some, more enterprising, do better than that. They decorate their coaches with their colours, bannerets, gonfanons and what not, proclaiming to all and sundry that Labour is having a beano; and often the bent back of toil in the fields is straightened and a rustic is heartened by the display and hope for the future is revived in him. And if there is a Labour Party, and especially a Women's Section, in the coastal resort or inland beauty spot which is the venue, they arrange for a Party spread instead of going to a colourless and heartless caterer. Or if, unhappily, there isn't any Labour Party there they provide for a bit of propaganda as a part of their merrymaking in order to encourage the formation of one.

MAYBE the Labour Prime Minister of 1984 will write his autobiography. Happy he, if he can record in it that he went on the 1954 outing of the Mugsbury Ward, and did post on the spreading chestnut tree on the village green, next to a notice about warble fly, an announcement that the village of Wurzeleton couldn't afford the Tories; did give out a hundred leaflets and sell seven pamphlets; and afterwards did win local fame by beating the district shove-ha'penny champion.

'WE LEARN BY WHAT WE SEE'

says J. Reeves, M.P.

WE learn by what we see. It is easier to learn by seeing than by any other way. Pictures fascinate. The moving picture has swept all before it. Television is only one further advance upon the film.

In our schools teachers are using visual aids to education increasingly. In America, the various Boards of Education have set up transmitting stations to provide schools with sound and television programmes on almost every subject in the curriculum.

Such Boards engage script writers, lecturers, artists, cameramen, etc., who use studios and outdoor broadcasts to help to give realistic representation to the facts of life.

When I was in New York, I went over to the Headquarters of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and its secretary, an old friend of ours, Mark Starr, showed me class rooms equipped with all forms of visual aids to their educational work, sound cinematograph projectors, film strip projectors, epidiscopes and episcope, as well as charts and historical wall diagrams.

In Britain, we accept new ideas very tardily and we have, because of this, lost the value of a mighty medium of education and propaganda.

Because of the impact of television upon the minds of people, the Labour Party has at long last had a film made for use on this medium. It will then be available, I hope, on sub-standard stock (16 mm.) for use in the field.

But one such film will not be enough. The Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., at the request of the National Film Association, now a defunct body, set up a nation-wide organisation for showing films to Local Labour Parties, Trade Unions and Co-operative Societies.

The Co-operative Societies have a few suitably prepared films and some of the

trade unions have sponsored the production of films, but the Labour Party has not so far felt called upon to finance the production of films designed to tell the people of Labour's achievements during the post-war Labour Government and the great social aims of the Party. I am convinced that it can no longer disregard this important medium of propaganda and education.

The C.W.S. Ltd. can provide the services to project the films on the screens in local Labour and Co-operative halls, but it has no little film material to project. The service provided to the local parties has up till now been free, but after August next, a charge of £2 10s. per show will be made.

A number of Co-operative Societies have projectors, which local Labour Parties can borrow, but unfortunately the supply of films soon runs out.

In my view, the Party needs a library of short films with an annual allocation of expenditure large enough to keep the library up to date. If only three ten-minute films were made every year, say for an annual expenditure of £6,000, we would in time have a library which would justify local parties organising film shows at which our own propaganda would form the central theme.

For more specialised work in aiding speakers and lecturers, we need a library of film strips which can be made very cheaply. To illustrate the spoken word in this manner would help to make our meetings far more attractive.

In going to various Local Parties for the purpose of lecturing, I find they already display charts provided by a variety of outside agencies. Good charts which have educational value. But they do not tell our story in our way.

We want charts prepared by the Party for Party purposes. As we prepare the printed word, and prepare it well, so we need to enter into this too-long neglected field with as much initiative and originality as we have used in the topical pamphlet.

★ SEE PAGE 96

AGENT'S MOST IMPORTANT AIDE

by H. R. UNDERHILL

THE Canvass and Committee Room Officer is the Election Agent's most important aide. The post needs an experienced election worker who appreciates the vital part the canvass plays in election organisation, one who is attentive to detail and who can enthuse members to do the work required.

It will be an advantage to appoint this officer as soon as possible, so that he can help the agent with some of the preparatory work, particularly the consideration that needs to be given to the canvass system, the method of recording promises and the polling day procedure.

UNWISE TO CHANGE

If changes are to be made, the new system must be 'got over' to the party workers. It is most unwise to alter a system too near an actual election campaign; the workers must fully understand why a particular method is being adopted, how it operates and where it fits in the general campaign.

It is not for me to discuss the system to be adopted, but some questions must be posed. Does it enable an efficient canvass to be conducted and a clear record of Labour 'promises' to be kept? Does the polling day procedure give a speedy check on the votes cast at any time; which of our 'promises' have voted and which have not, and does it provide for a speedy follow-up of those still unpollled? Is it adequate, efficient and simple?

An efficient and virile party will not treat the canvass just as an election operation, but as an all-the-year-round normal activity. It will be readily agreed that only an individual card system can adequately record information secured from regular canvassing of this kind, and so more readily attract attention to be given to 'doubtfuls'.

The register must be prepared for the canvass—pasted into books or on ruled

THE officer in charge of the canvass is the agent's chief aide, says H. R. Underhill, West Midlands Regional Organiser. This article is the third in a series on the planning and running of an election. Other articles will follow.

cards, or an individual card written for each elector. It must be remembered that alphabetical order registers must be broken down by writing a separate card for each elector and sorting into walking order.

It will be useful to mark up party members—the canvassers will be able to give them a reminder call for election work. A mark could be placed against those electors who displayed posters or window cards previously.

'Hints to Canvassers' can be prepared—all canvassers will not know how cards should be marked and the attention needed to be given to special items.

Workers must be continually reminded why the canvass is vital; that the canvasser is a public relations officer of the candidate, and that a canvass has great psychological value; that it enables us to know who are 'supporters', 'opponents' and 'doubtfuls'.

Without a canvass the election agent can only guess how the campaign is going, and absence of canvass records means that polling day organisation is just a 'hit and miss' affair. Practical demonstrations of the system should be given to as many workers as is possible.

STRONG LABOUR AREAS

When the election starts the Canvass Officer will get into touch with the Area Officers, explain how he requires the canvass conducted, the areas to be covered and so on. It may be desirable to encourage workers by starting on strong Labour areas, but I feel it is useful to tackle parts of various polling districts rather than complete a whole district at a

time. This enables a good check to be made on progress over areas of varied character.

The Canvass Officer should endeavour to carry through special mass canvass efforts, with the candidate giving short loud-speaker talks as canvassers go door-to-door.

He should receive from the Area Officers a daily report of the canvass in each polling district. In some areas this may need to be telephoned, but in others the Canvass Officer will be able to collect it, and at the same time discuss matters with the Area Officer.

DAILY REPORT FORMS

The Daily Report Forms in the Election Parcel provide for a cumulative return, but some agents and Canvass Officers prefer a daily report of the actual work done—this is certainly more simple, but it will entail the Canvass Officer making his own cumulative figures for each polling district.

It is essential to have figures for each polling district to know just how much canvassing is being done in each, and the results. These figures should be compared with previous records and where necessary appropriate action will be taken.

The Canvass Officer will keep his figures confidential. In addition to the actual figures, a graph showing daily progress of total canvass, 'For', 'Against' and 'Doubtful', and also a visual chart will be useful.

The visual chart is easily made. On a sheet of graph paper list the various polling districts and give a space alongside, say one inch, for 100 voters, to represent the total electorate of the polling districts.

As the canvass returns come in the 'For' figures will be marked off in red from the left-hand side of this space; the 'Againsts' and 'Doubtfuls' put together and marked off from the right-hand. The middle space represents the amount of canvass in the polling district still to be carried through.

Canvassers, both before and during the first few days of the election, should be urged to give attention to postal votes; application forms should be taken on the canvass and help given in completing them.

Throughout the campaign canvassers should make a note of removals, both 'in'

and 'out'. The reports of postal votes and 'Removals' will be collated at the area committee rooms and transferred to the Central Committee Room for handling by the appropriate officer.

Special attention should be given to a re-canvass of the 'Doubtfuls' by experienced canvassers, and that 'Outs' are followed up. Care must be taken in keeping records of second and subsequent canvasses—additional figures must not be overlooked, but neither must previous figures be repeated.

The work on Absent Votes and Removals may be undertaken by the Canvass Officer if he has exceptional ability and the necessary time, but I shall deal with it as a separate post.

This is another post that needs to be filled long before the election if effective results are to be obtained. As the last day for absent vote applications at a Parliamentary Election is 12 days prior to poll, if little is done prior to the election then our postal votes will again be low. Most constituencies should put on 1,000 extra Labour votes if the job was tackled with vigour NOW.

The work must be started at once. All members must be told of the postal vote facilities and how they can help. The co-operation of trade union branches should be sought.

In the pre-election canvass special attention should be given to possible postal voters. In many instances application can be made now, but in any event members should be encouraged to supply the relevant information to be recorded for a later approach. New estates should be canvassed—there may be persons who are entitled to a postal vote for removal.

OBTAIN DOCTOR'S NAME

It is unwise merely to leave a form—offer to assist in completing it. It is often wise to obtain the doctor's name and to arrange for a batch of cards to be taken to him for countersigning.

A careful check should be made of supporters who move and an effort be made to trace the new address. They may be entitled to a postal vote, but in any case the new address will be useful for a personal call if still in the constituency, or for posting special communications from time to time.

The Housing Department and the

Co-operative Society might be approached for help in this important task of tracing removals.

It must not be overlooked that some of the removals 'in' may come from other constituencies and this information should be transferred to the respective Constituency Labour Party—in a marginal seat such votes might tip the scale.

The Absent Vote Officer will intensify his work in the few early days of the campaign still open for postal vote applications. In particular he will see that the information previously obtained is speedily followed up.

The agent will receive from the Returning Officer a list of both postal and proxy voters and the Absent Vote Officer should send to each a special letter from the candidate. This should explain how to complete the postal ballot paper and the identity form, or how the proxy should act.

The Officer will likewise intensify efforts to trace every possible removal. He will

receive from the Canvass Officer details of removals both 'in' and 'out'. He will sort these and where appropriate send information to the respective Area Officer for a personal call to be made at the new address.

INFORMATION TO AGENT

Removals 'In' may be from other parts of the constituency and may qualify for a postal vote, but if not they may need transport to their correct polling station. They may be from another constituency, and even during the election such information should be sent to the agent in that constituency.

Where removals 'Out' are not entitled to a postal vote, or have failed to apply, a special letter should be sent from the candidate and should offer car transport, but care must be taken not to tie up too much transport in this way in the peak periods of polling day. Replies will, of course, be passed to the Transport Officer.

How to keep a Party Alive

BY J. CAMPBELL

YES, there are a thousand and one known ways of killing a Labour Party, or for that matter any organisation. Alec Murie recommends the "Long-drawn-out, tiresome, inconclusive meetings" method.

Let us forget about killing a Labour Party, and concentrate on how to keep it alive, which is a much harder job. I support the well-organised, businesslike system against Alec's 'system of confusion', and in so doing I recommend a study of *A.B.C. of Chairmanship*, by Lord Citrine, published by the N.C.L.C.

Alec mentions meeting places as if they were all uncomfortable, cheerless rooms resembling crypts. This is not always the case. Where it is, steps should be taken to alter the position. If there is a choice of halls—and very often there isn't—the most central, best equipped and attractive should be hired. Yes, even if it means spending more money.

Alec also mentions keen members who arrive at the advertised time and says 'this is unusual'. Is it? If the meeting were to start on time, I am sure that the

majority of those who intend to attend would be on the spot.

Why advertise a meeting to start at 7.30 p.m., if it is not to commence until 7.50? Would it not be much better to alter the Party's Standing Orders to allow the meeting to commence at 7.50 — on time?

Alec illustrates a copy of a notice and agenda and condemns it out of hand without suggesting any alternative. To be businesslike I suggest the following, which I may say has proved successful on all occasions that I have tried it.

About ten days before each meeting send a notice and agenda to all members. This, in my opinion, is necessary as a first step to a well-run meeting. The notice and agenda should be similar to the following:

To: Party Members.

Dear Comrade,

MONTHLY MEETING

Please endeavour to attend the monthly meeting of the North Ward Party, to be held on Monday, 10th May, 1954, at 8 p.m., in the Labour Hall, Whiteside.

The agenda will be as follows:

- p.m. (a) Apologies.
 (b) Welcome to New Members.
 (c) Chairman's Remarks.
 10 (d) Minutes of Ward Meeting—
 12/4/54.
 (e) Questions Arising.
 (f) Minutes of Executive Meeting
 —7/5/54.
 (g) Business Arising (including
 correspondence)
 p.m. (h) Reports.
 45 (i) General Business.
 55 (j) Any Other Business.
 10 p.m. CLOSE.

We appeal to all members to arrive punctually for the start of the meeting in order that the maximum possible time may be available for any matter arising out of the subjects on the Agenda.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Ray D. Foraction.

(Ward Secretary).

According to Alec this is an overloaded agenda. But is it? And is it not much better to let the members know beforehand what the business will be?

To quote chapter two, paragraph 37 of A.B.C. of Chairmanship:

The object of having an agenda is threefold: (a) to make sure that no item of vital importance is omitted, (b) to see that the business is dealt with in proper order, (c) to give all members due warning as to what is coming before the meeting, thus preventing items being sprung upon them suddenly.

The Chairman, Secretary, and Executive

Committee should not be persuaded to deal with most of the routine work—**THEY SHOULD DEAL WITH IT.** An Executive meeting should be held as near to the monthly meeting as possible, where the correspondence and other important matters would be dealt with. The recommendations would then be placed before the full meeting for approval or rejection. This would arise under item (f) on the agenda.

Reports would not take up too much time if each person giving one was told beforehand how much time he would be allowed.

If the job is done in an organised way it prevents a permanent state of confusion. I recommend, for what it is worth, my method in opposition to Alec Murie's 'LONG-DRAWN-OUT, TIRESOME, INCONCLUSIVE MEETINGS' method.

CANDIDATES

THE following were endorsed as prospective Parliamentary Candidates at the March meeting of the National Executive Committee:

Woodford ...	Mr A. K. M. Milner
Stroud and	
Thornbury ...	Mr. R. W. Evelyn
Bolton West ...	Mr. J. Haworth
Motherwell ...	Mr. G. M. Lawson
Edinburgh East ...	Mr. E. G. Willis

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Text Book

BIG moves forward were made by the Labour Government, not only in the sphere of social reform, but also in the equally controversial sphere of political reform.

R.P.A., 1948, was followed by R.P.A., 1949. The 1949 Act was a consolidating act, but both acts together introduced revolutionary changes in the law of elections.

By the abolition of the Business Premises and the University franchises, the principle of 'one citizen one vote' was introduced in parliamentary elections. The number of motor cars that could be used for the conveyance of electors to the poll was strictly limited; the legal maximum of expenses in parliamentary elections was brought down.

The extension of postal voting and the decision to be made by lot in the event of a tie in voting were among other changes, both great and small, which these acts made.

In this situation there appeared a new authority on election law, A. Norman Schofield. His *Parliamentary Elections* and *Local Government Elections* are to be seen on the shelves of most Labour agents and his name is as familiar among them as were other names to their colleagues before the war.

But even the pre-war writer on election law must have come to realise the truth of the dictum, 'Nothing is, everything is becoming', because there have been already substantial changes in the law since Mr. Schofield first published his two books.

The third edition of *Local Government Elections** brings the work bang up to the minute and so it will remain—until more changes are made.

The new enactments recorded in this edition are The Election Commissioners Act, 1949, and The Electoral Registers Act, 1953. The latter will have interest for agents because it alters the registration time-table; the former concerns the appointment of commissioners to enquire corrupt and illegal practices!

Also, account is taken of eight sets of rules and regulations which have come into operation since 1949.

* *Local Government Elections*, A. Norman Schofield, Shaw & Sons, 65s.

T.V. OPENS B

TELEVISION is now within geographical reach of something like 85 per cent of Britain's 50 million people.

In January, 1954, there were 3,100,000 licensed television sets in the United Kingdom. When account is taken of new installations meanwhile, and of the estimated number of unlicensed sets, we may reasonably assume that the number now in use is about three and a half million.

How big is the television audience? The B.B.C. base their calculations on an average of three viewers per set, giving a potential audience of approximately ten million.

In practice, however, only an average of 45 per cent of sets are in use at any one time, although this varies according to the type of programme and to whether it goes out over all or only some of the nine* transmitters at present in operation.

Now for some theories—and fallacies—about the effect of television. We are told, for instance, that television has revolutionised social habits. While it undoubtedly has had an impact on the ways in which many people spend their time and money, it would I think be a mistake to draw too many hard and fast conclusions at this stage.

New viewers do become very attached to their sets—but only for a time. Recent experience in both this country and America suggests that once the 'honeymoon' period is over, they become more selective in their viewing and old habits begin to reassert themselves.

Television, we are also told, has killed the public meeting. 'Everybody admits', wrote a special correspondent of *The Times* recently, 'that the heyday of the hustings is over'. Can we be absolutely certain of this?

The public meeting has been dying for

* Alexandra Palace, Sutton Coldfield, Holme Moss, Kirk o'Shootts, Wenvoe, Pontop Pike, Glencairn, Trulleigh Hill and Douglas, I.O.M.

R PROPAGANDA PROSPECT

long time and might it not be the case that, far from being the last straw, T.V. has only provided yet another excuse for our failure to approach meetings organisation more imaginatively than in the past.

All this does not mean that television is not important. It most certainly is and will be increasingly so in future. As a propaganda medium, it can be immensely powerful and compelling, although its use by political parties is still at the experimental stage.

So far, the two main parties have only produced three* T.V. broadcasts each, and there is a great deal of thinking to be done on the relative merits of the various techniques. It is still too early to draw firm conclusions on, say, the advantages and disadvantages of the prepared film on the one hand and the live studio transmission on the other.

And as has been shown by Christopher Mayhew and Aidan Crawley in this country and by Ed. Murrow in America, a combination of these approaches, which are only two of many, can be used to good effect.

Television is bound to have an influence on Party activity. On the negative side, agents are unlikely to send canvassers out while 'What's my Line?' and similar 'peak' programmes are on the air.

More positively, television can be used to stimulate and inspire people to do things that they have never done before. It can be used to establish leading personalities in the public mind as never before. Electoral success may come to depend in some measure on how well the parties are able to 'project' their leaders on T.V. This, of course, implies a willingness on the part of party leaders to study the television technique and to allow themselves to be projected in this way.

Television can also be used to revitalise the public meeting, and here we can learn something from the cinema. British film makers have met the T.V. challenge with rather more success than their American counterparts.

Hollywood's answer to the little screen

* Labour's three were: Christopher Mayhew and Sir Hartley Shawcross in October, 1951; Hugh Gaitskell in October, 1953; and 'Meet the Labour Party' in March, 1954.

by

GWILYM WILLIAMS

in the sitting room has been the bigger screen in the cinema. The British answer—simpler and cheaper—has been to exploit the T.V. personality. The recent Norman Wisdom film, for example, has drawn crowded houses all over the country—and Wisdom owes much of his fame to television.

There is already enough evidence to show that, other things being equal, a political personality who is well known on radio and T.V. will draw a bigger audience than one who is not so well known. Hugh Gaitskell proved this at the Harrogate by-election by drawing an audience of 500 to one meeting when up to then the Tories could only get a total of 885 to 23 meetings.

The moral was pointed by a Labour organiser who said: "What we must do now is to get tonight's broadcaster at tomorrow's meeting."

Television can, in certain circumstances, give added point to smaller gatherings. The innovation of the 'Teleparty' suggests that it can be used to revive the cottage meeting which had an important place in the armoury of an earlier generation of socialist propagandists.

But powerful though television is, none suggests that we should now put all our propaganda eggs in the T.V. basket. A willingness to spend more on television need not mean spending less in other directions.

Television in fact may stimulate new and extended uses of other media including the printed word. People will still want to read and to argue. Party agents will still need canvass returns and elections will still be won and lost on the doorstep.

The challenge of television is really a challenge to use it intelligently for the projection of ideas, policies and personalities. And it is a challenge to see it in its right perspective—not as a substitute, but as a new and powerful ally of established forms of political activity.

Legal Points to Watch

L. G. Sims directs attention to the legal rights and responsibilities of workers in the local elections. Polling day has its stresses and its risks, but the agent has to give special attention to the requirements of the law after the Poll has closed, he says.

THE most important day of the election is polling day—the day on which we put all our efforts into getting the maximum number of supporters to the poll. The increased stress of the campaign makes us a little more susceptible to the apparent misdeeds of our opponents and may cause us to feel that they are unduly favoured by the Returning Officer, or Presiding Officer.

POLLING DAY

Polling Day, therefore, brings its crop of incidents and arguments. Most tend to be more annoying than serious, but sometimes the impartiality of the Presiding Officer is questioned and this usually arises from some ruling or order he has given.

First and foremost it must be understood that the Presiding Officer is in charge of the polling station. He is appointed by the Returning Officer, and has the responsibility of ensuring that adequate polling facilities are available and that the rules governing voting procedure are carried out.

Polling Agents sometimes are appointed and they are there to prevent personation, that is, to ensure that the same person does not vote more than once as an elector; or vote more than once as a proxy; or impersonate some other elector. If the Polling Agent has reason to believe that a person has committed this offence, he has the right to ask the Presiding Officer to put the statutory questions. This must be done by the Presiding Officer—not the Polling Agent—and should be done before the person leaves the polling station. It does not, however, mean that the person so challenged cannot record his vote.

In order to assist in this work the Polling Agent can mark off his copy of the register those who have applied for ballot papers. On no account can he take that copy of the register outside. To do so

would break his declaration of secrecy. Should a person be found doing this, he should be reported either to the Presiding Officer or to the constable on duty.

Number takers should not be confused with Polling Agents. Their function is not provided for in any way by law, and therefore they must rely upon the goodwill of the Presiding Officer and conduct themselves accordingly. If they are to do their work properly, and in comfort, they need to be as close to the polling station as possible, and in most cases are permitted near the entrance.

Let us be clear on this. They are there by courtesy of the Presiding Officer—not by right. Therefore, if this privilege is abused or further facilities demanded, the number takers may be turned off the premises. It is wise not to interfere in any way with the elector going in to vote. After the vote has been recorded there is nothing wrong in asking for the number.

Once the rush and bustle of the election is over, the Election Agent is left with the job of settling up, and it is as well to emphasise the following points.

AFTER POLLING

Computation of Days. Whereas before polling day Sundays and certain other days are excluded, after the declaration of the result the counting of days is consecutive. It should be noted that the wording says, “within days after the day on which the result of the election is declared”. Note—it is the *result* of the election, not necessarily the day of election.

Claims. Fourteen days are allowed for claims. Please remember that this includes a claim by the Election Agent if he receives a remuneration, and also the candidate's personal expenses should any have been incurred.

Payments. The 28 days allowed for payment is quite clear and the Election Agent would be well advised to keep well within the date laid down. Payment by cheque is an advantage as it provides a

record of the dates on which payment was made.

Return and Declarations. The Return and Declaration of the Election Agent must be transmitted within 35 days—the Declaration being witnessed by a J.P.

CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

In the case of the Candidate's Declaration (which also has to be witnessed by a J.P.) there is seven days grace. It is important, however, to realise that the seven days commence from the date on which the Agent transmits his Return and Declaration, not necessarily 35 days plus seven.

The conscientious Agent will get his Return and Declaration in before the final day and will also ensure that his Candidate's Declaration goes in at the same time. Should this not be possible, send him a letter notifying him of the date by which his Declaration must be transmitted. Where the candidate has not had the opportunity to examine the Return, a copy should be enclosed.

He is required to state that he has examined the Return and that it is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, complete and correct. It has been known that as a result of failing to enclose a copy, the candidate has refused to sign his Declaration until the Return had been shown him. It is easy to understand the worries that resulted from such a case.

New Agents

THE following Agency appointments have been approved by the National Executive Committee:

MR. FRANK HUFF—as Secretary-Agent for **Bexley**. Mr. Huff, who is 30, has been a full-time agent for the past five years, serving first at Rugby and then at Acton.

MR. DENNIS GRENNAN—as Secretary-Agent for **Hammersmith South**. Mr. Grennan is 26. Formerly a Civil Servant, for the past two years he has been a student at Ruskin College, Oxford and was Secretary of the Labour Party Group there.

TORIES MOAN

THERE are signs that the Tories are getting worried at Labour activity in rural areas, where the Labour vote has continued to grow slowly but surely since 1945.

The *Sleaford Gazette*, in the Grantham constituency, writes, "While Sleaford Local Labour Party and villages affiliated with the Socialist movement report an upsurge of enthusiasm which is reflected in attendances at branch and public meetings, Sleaford branch of the Grantham Conservative Association, which worked so hard to put Mr. J. B. Godber into Parliament, is bemoaning a degree of apathy within its ranks which must send cold shudders down the spines of its officials."

Berrow's Worcester Journal reports the South Worcester Tory agent as saying: "At the last election the Labour Party had a very poor organisation, no office and no permanent agent, yet they polled nearly 15,000 votes. Since then they had opened a permanent office and appointed an agent; they had started a Labour Club which was thriving and in the last three months they had opened no fewer than eight new branches."

THE PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

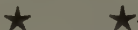
1,100,000 Members
£47,000,000 Trade
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19,500 Employees

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Bishop's Castle Celebrates

by G. H. Williams

OFF the map! Maybe, so far as public transport is concerned, for Bishop's Castle, one of England's smallest boroughs (900 electors) is eight miles from the nearest railway station. So when I set out to visit this outpost of the Ludlow Constituency, I travelled to Shrewsbury by train, and then had a 24 mile bus journey through Welsh border country.



Town dwellers would have found the journey interesting. The driver knew all the other passengers, and as soon as I asked for directions to the British Legion Hall, they knew my business in Bishop's Castle.

Some 80 people were already assembled and coach parties from Ludlow and the Wrekin soon swelled the total to 130. Even the Mayor and Mayoress were there.

Yes! it was a very special occasion, for the local party was celebrating the enrolment of its 200th member (the rapid growth of this new party was described by Reg Underhill in last November's *Organiser*).

The proceedings opened, as they so often do, with an hour or so of entertainment by the local concert party. About 8.40 p.m. I was invited to slip out for a "quick-un", and only realised the significance of this invitation when the landlord called "time" at 9 p.m.

The concert over, the stage was now occupied by the prospective parliamentary candidate, constituency and local officers, Mellor Harrison and myself. Fraternal greetings were over in half an hour, all leading up to the climax, the introduction, by the secretary, of the 200th member, a popular local postman.

This was really done in style. Not for them the banal or perfunctory manner one finds so often to-day. Here was a fine cake, with a perfectly designed party badge, at least 10 inches in diameter, to be ceremoniously cut by the new member, and then whipped away to be dissected

by more expert hands. In next to no time, cake and suitably filled glasses were in the hands of everyone present, to drink the health of the member and success to the party. Finally, the Mayoress (non-committally, yet graciously) presents a memento to the by now embarrassed member.

But not quite all. The secretary had another important announcement to make. A further 24 members had just been recruited in the neighbouring village of Clun—the first ever. All done by young Mrs. Holder and her small boy. Up on the platform, both of them, to be congratulated and cheered to the echo.

Then—supper—and back to normal—games and dancing to conclude the evening.

One of my fellow visitors jocularly (and confidentially) likened the proceedings as being "a cross between a revival meeting and a Mau Mau initiation". I must admit that in these sophisticated days it was all rather unusual, yet strangely moving and encouraging.



Membership of the Labour Party really meant something to these people. They recognised the privilege of being accepted into the movement, as well as the responsibility of being members of it . . . and so, back to Birmingham, feeling more than a little encouraged after meeting comrades who, it seemed to me, had recaptured something of the spirit of the pioneers.

POSTAL VOTING

A pamphlet giving full details of postal and proxy voting. A leaflet designed for distribution.

THE POSTAL VOTE (12-page pamphlet)

One copy 4d.; 12 copies 1/8; 50 copies 5/-

POSTAL VOTING (2-page leaflet)

10/- per 1000 copies

Both post free

THE LABOUR PARTY — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

KEEPING THOSE NEW MEMBERS

by A. J. Williams

DURING September I worked as a member of a student Canvassing Team at Burton-on-Trent and Leek. As a result of this work certain conclusions were drawn by my companions and myself which, while they probably contain little or nothing that is new, may be of some importance to the Party.

Primarily, these suggestions apply to marginal constituencies which can be won by superior organisation.

It is generally recognised that one of the great problems within the Labour Party is the inability to retain a large ward membership once it has been built up. One or two of the suggestions will possibly help in that respect, but I feel that the party must, to a certain degree, accept what is an undesirable fact and for this reason my suggestions are predominantly concerned with establishing and holding a voting membership in a pre-election period.

I have roughly, and arbitrarily, divided my points into two broad categories although, in fact, the division is far from water-tight.

Outside Work

(a) A membership drive should be held and should preferably be conducted in one ward at a time with the assistance of neighbouring wards. This gives the electorate a sense of intensity of activity and so serves to foster their interest and enthusiasm.

(b) Where possible the M.P. or prospective candidate should support canvassers by touring the streets in which they are canvassing in a car fitted with a loudspeaker. This encourages the canvassers and enables those constituents who wish to seek the advice of the M.P.

(c) Postal Votes *must* be collected and noted.

(d) Although it is standard practice, it is important that the canvassing cards should be clearly marked to indicate those voters who are FOR, AGAINST

and DOUBTFUL. This clarity is needed for future action.

(e) Canvassing cards should be prepared well in advance because slipshod organisation quickly kills the enthusiasm of voluntary canvassers who are giving up their spare time.

(f) At the time of the canvass a duplicated letter should be distributed among old and new members inviting them to a social to be held not more than a fortnight after the ward campaign. So many people complain that they hear nothing of the party after they become members. There can be nothing worse than to bring people in and then to make them feel that they are not wanted.

(g) Collectors should call regularly and they should distribute party literature, not only among supporters (by supporters I mean not just members but those who have indicated that they will vote FOR), but also among those who, at the time of the canvass, were marked as DOUBTFUL.

Internal Organisation

(a) Collectors are the key to sustained membership, even if it is only intended to hold members for a few months before an election. They must also do the work of literature distribution. For this reason they should receive 25 per cent of their collection. It is useless expecting the work to be done by voluntary unremunerated workers, a fact that has been proved in the past. The larger membership should amply cover the ward against a loss of income. Active old age pensioners may fill the role of collector.

(b) Ward meeting procedure must be streamlined and better organised to avoid time-wasting on petty and, often, irrelevant matters. Inefficiency quickly loses attendance, for people do not want their spare time wasted.

The saving of time will give rise to an opportunity to discuss national and international affairs. Most people look at politics in a broad, not local light.

(c) At least four days notice should be given of all ordinary meetings.

(d) Literature suited to the general

nature of the ward should be purchased for distribution. This should not be prohibitively expensive, particularly if it is only planned to last for a few months.

I realise that many of these points must seem petty and unimportant but they have all arisen directly from contact with those who have been members of the party and who have been unnecessarily lost to it.

I know that the building of a membership that cannot be permanently absorbed is not very popular, but I feel that with a possible imminent election to be won this temporary arousing of our supporters is a matter of critical importance, because if we lose the next election the party will find the fight back to be infinitely more difficult.

Film Show Free!

MR. PHILLIPS, Labour Party Secretary, has written to all affiliated organisations telling them that the film, 'Meet the Labour Party', which was recently televised, will be the central feature of a programme of several suitable films which the Co-operative Wholesale Society Publicity Department is handling.

The programme is available free of charge for showing during May and June. As well as supplying films, projector and a screen, the services of the operator are supplied.

★ SEE PAGE 85

Buy these two important publications

- **Election Charts and Forms**
1/2d. post free
- **Practical Illustrations of
Committee Rooms**
1/8d. post free

Obtainable from the Publications Dept.

THE LABOUR PARTY	TRANSPORT HOUSE
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LESSONS FROM ONE HUNDRED BY-ELECTIONS

BOTH the Edinburgh East and the Motherwell by-election results were good, though in Motherwell the swing to Labour was obscured by the intervention of a Communist.

Motherwell was the hundredth by-election since the war. The *Manchester Guardian* has published a survey of these contests.

The author, very wisely, draws few conclusions, though he thinks the results emphasise the way in which our electoral system has become a two-party system and that since 1945 Labour has been the "natural majority". (Of the 65 minor party candidates, 49 lost their deposits and no Liberal has saved his deposit in any by-election since 1947.)

Individual factors do play a greater part in by-elections than in general elections, though some general tendencies can be observed. Despite the so-called 'swing', it is plain that there has not been any great change in political opinion since the war.

Leaving Northern Ireland out of account, only two constituencies have changed hands in by-elections, and in both the situation was complicated by the intervention of other candidates. Camlachie was lost because the seat which the I.L.P. won in a straight fight in 1945, was contested by six candidates, including Labour and I.L.P. candidates in the by-election.

Sunderland South which Labour held by a majority of 306 in a straight fight in 1951 was lost in the by-election to the Tory who had a minority of the votes cast in a three-cornered fight.

There is a distinct tendency for the swing to go against Labour where the outcome of the fight is a foregone conclusion, though where a seat is in danger, or there is a chance of winning, Labour supporters rally as well as do the Tories.

No by-elections have given reasons to alter the view that the key to the next election is in the 200 marginal constituencies where a relatively small turn-over of votes can determine who will win the seats.

HERE IS OUR PARTY'S PROBLEM

WITHOUT COMMENT . . .

A plea, presented in novel form by M. HEWLETT,
for help in backward areas from Labour strongholds.

*The Secretary's Annual Report in a
safe Labour Seat with a 20,000 majority.*

—NORTH PITTS.

I am pleased to report that our membership has increased by 10 over the year from the 600 it was. Of course, membership is not very important in a constituency like ours where we do not count the Labour vote at elections but just weigh it (Loud Laughter).

As I stand fixing my television aerial I can almost see the roofs of every one of our supporters, in fact it is hard to detect an opposition vote, and between you and me, working folk who are Tory do not go around bragging about it in this constituency.

The region have asked us to have a full-time agent. What do we want an agent for? The seat is safe enough, 20,169 majority last time. They asked us for some financial help for some of the seats with hard fights ahead of them. We have very little money in the kitty as you know, but we have sent £10.

I am pleased to report that the Labour Clubs, all three of them, are doing awfully well and one has its own cinema. We have also had numerous coach trips to various places of interest during the year and subscribed £100 to enable one of our Committee to go to the Socialist Conference in Timbuctoo.

They say a General Election is possible this year. Well, we are ready. If only the other seats were as ready as we are here would be no doubt of a Labour victory. There are too many seats like South Meadows—Tory majority of 20,000, what on earth is the Labour Party doing here? They are failing the movement, and there are nearly 100 such seats.

Well I do not think I want to say any more than that North Pitts will be found with another record Labour poll next time.

*The Secretary's Annual Report in a
seat with a Tory majority of 20,000.*

—SOUTH MEADOWS.

I cannot say I am pleased with the report I must present to you. It is better. Our poll at the last election was about 10,000, the Tory poll was over 30,000, but we have increased our membership from 700 to 1,000, which means that 10 per cent of our last vote is in the Party.

Our trouble is that the constituency covers over 250 square miles, there are only three small market towns and about 100 large and small villages with hardly any real bus communications. We cannot combine our efforts like the Industrial seats such as North Pitts, with two or three square miles of closely packed supporters. Again, some of the large landed estates are still rather feudal and many working folk are still afraid the vote is not secret and that the 'gaffer' may get to know and sack them and you know that house and job go hand in hand in this area.

The region have asked us to appoint a full-time agent. Frankly, even with Head Office help we cannot find the balance and after the first year, even if we tried hard, the agent would be looking for his wages. If we had some 30,000 supporters we could do it. We must struggle on as we are but if finance gets any worse, with a potential Election in the offing, we may have to cut out our paid delegate to the Annual Conference next year.

How much longer are safe seats like North Pitts going to leave us to fight a hopeless battle for lack of money, when they have finished their fight years ago and are too tired now to even raise funds to guarantee an agent's wages for us for a year or two until we can get on our feet. Once we were organised we could stand alone.

LITTLE CHANGE IN THE NORTH

IT would appear that the Northern region has been more fortunate than other regions as a result of the provisional recommendations of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission. Only eight of the 37 constituencies are affected. The only change suggested in Northumberland is the transfer of a ward from Newcastle West to Newcastle Central. While this will weaken Newcastle West it will make the strong Central much stronger, but will leave the West with a fairly reasonable margin.

North Riding proposals only affect the two Middlesbrough constituencies and here two good Labour wards are transferred from the East to the West and one solid Tory ward from the West to the East. This certainly improves the West constituency and leaves the East with a very comfortable majority.

The proposals affecting four constituencies in Durham are much more far-reaching in character and if finally approved will cause quite an upheaval and very many organisational problems.

For example, four wards are to be taken out of South Shields and put into Jarrow. As these four wards remain in South Shields for local government purposes, it is evident that there will be some difficulty in devising suitable rules and constitution and even more in securing the interest of the electors in a constituency outside their borough boundary. The existing South Shields constituency will be very considerably weakened by this change, but should still be retained for Labour.

As Gateshead had only an electorate of 78,000 for two constituencies, it appeared obvious that the Commission would seek to increase that number. This they did by taking a direct opposite line to that taken at South Shields, because they decided to transfer two urban districts from Jarrow constituency, which with two wards of Gateshead will make the new Gateshead East, while Gateshead West will comprise the other eight wards.

While it was easy to get agreement amongst the parties concerned in Newcastle and Middlesbrough, it was found impos-

sible to reach any agreement between the parties affected by the Durham proposals. As a result, each party is left free to make what representation it desires.

The net result of the proposed changes in the region should be a gain of one seat.

Northern

W. B. LEWCOCK

Kidderminster's Triumph

THE splendid advance in membership made in the West Midlands in 1952 was not continued last year and membership is down by 2,287 to 80,979. This figure averages 1,472 for each of our 55 constituencies.

Nevertheless, 24 made some kind of increase, but it is with concern that we note 13 are still below the thousand mark, and five of these are safe Labour seats.

Only six have enrolled more than 10 per cent of the Labour vote, but 21 have less than five per cent and of these no less than 16 have substantial Labour majorities.

The Membership Challenge Shield was presented at the recent Annual Meeting of the Regional Council to the Kidderminster Constituency Labour Party, which also shared the award in 1952.

In Kidderminster, a new constituency under 1948 re-distribution, membership has risen steadily—524, 1,375, 1,529, 3,011 and 3,338. The great increases of 1,482 secured in 1952 was not held, but 327 new members were enrolled: 16.4 per cent of the Labour vote has been enrolled, the highest ever achieved by a West Midlands constituency. There is a 5,158 Conservative majority.

Twelve months ago I wrote of two membership experiments to be undertaken in the West Midlands. One was at Kidderminster, where in July a full-time Membership Officer was appointed to collect subscriptions and keep membership records. Voluntary workers continue to carry out the recruitment of new members. There is also, of course, a full-time agent.

Despite a drop in collection over a period of three months during which the neces-

reorganisation was undertaken, £401 was collected. It is certain there will be substantial improvement in the present year.

Second place went to Solihull, with a 3,124 Tory majority, where 207 new members brought the total to 1,777, or 51 per cent of the Labour vote. This difficult constituency has 44 voluntary collectors who brought in £272.

Special mention was made of two other constituencies, one South Worcestershire, also with a large Tory majority, was concerned in the other experiment with a full-time Membership Officer. In this instance he carries through the actual canvassing for new members as well as responsibility for part of the collections. South Worcestershire increased membership by no less than 153 per cent, to 1,748, 12.1 per cent of the Labour vote.

It will be noted the shield is not awarded solely for the largest membership increase, but many other factors are taken into consideration — consolidation achieved, subscriptions collected, percentage of vote controlled, spread-over of membership and collections, nature of the area, etc.

The other constituency given special mention was Sutton Coldfield, another difficult area with a 15,735 Conservative majority. Membership increased by 573, 48 per cent, bringing the total to 1,771, 8.1 per cent of the Labour vote. The increase was mainly in the Borough of Sutton Coldfield which has nearly 1,000 members but has never had a single Labour member on the Council of 28!

It is significant that all four constituencies quoted have Tory majorities, three of them being regarded as good Conservative seats. Our problem is making safe Labour seats appreciate the need for continuous membership efforts.

West Midlands H. R. UNDERHILL

Welsh School

In past years we have held at least one week-end school a year in North Wales which have been invited the agents from the North Wales constituencies. We have discussed matters of organisation, electoral machinery, etc., as well as hearing from each agent of his successes as well as his difficulties.

These discussions have been extremely helpful, but during last month we tried a new experiment. We organised a week-end school at a Llandudno hotel, to which

we invited not only the agents, but another member from each Constituency Labour Party, as well as representatives from the Women's Advisory Committee and Federations.

Our lectures and discussions dealt with organisation and electoral machinery, paying particular attention to the marginal constituencies. We also had one full afternoon's discussion on the Labour Party's Policy for Wales. We have recently issued a pamphlet on this matter, which includes recommendations of our Regional Council Executive Committee in dealing with problems which are peculiar to the Principality. This, as can be imagined, was an excellent discussion and it was pleasing to note the favourable reception which was given to our Executive Committee's recommendations.

The school had its social side, which included Saturday afternoon off to enable some of the students to see a local football match. Llandudno is of course an ideal place for a week-end school, and the friendly atmosphere in the hotel was certainly conducive to comradeship and fellowship.

Welsh

C. PROTHERO

Good Timber

IN the national forest of politics it is refreshing and invigorating to meet those members of the Labour League of Youth, whose measurements do not yet attain that of the great and spreading oak, but who undoubtedly are of the timber of which Labour leaders are made.

This was my experience at the Northern Semi-Finals of the National Public Speaking Contest.

Some of the competitors emulated the dawn trick on the bridge path by travelling all night in the football-fan packed trains bound for the field of Flodden (I mean Hampden). But withal their journeying they brought to the merry-go-round of politics a great deal of horse sense on Far Eastern problems.

Of course, there was a slight tendency to assume that the hide of politics was cut and dried, and it only remained for a decision to be taken on whose door we should nail it to!

Their instincts were sound, their sincerity shining right out of them; and instinct and sincerity are often the products of a deeper and more profound reasoning than that found around the

collars attached to older and very important necks.

All of them were conscious of the pukka-sahib attitude to the Far East, but none of them could be jockeyed into wearing the plushlined jodhpurs of the so-called master race.

Now for a little friendly criticism.

Many of the speakers had the happy knack of picking up well-worn words and phrases (from their elders?) and minting them afresh. (This does not mean using words which were all right for Shakespeare and doubtful for anybody else!)

One Chairman without hesitation, preamble, breath or apology, plunged the audience into the sea and attacked us with the hydrogen bomb. And without a word as to whose auspices it was being delivered! Enunciation was perfect in this example but gestures over dramatic or over excited, I could not be sure.

Another Chairman succeeded in speaking for the first two and a half minutes without ever using the full-stop in punctuation! He was in a hurry. And still another bounced backwards and forwards resting hands on the table in the most cheerful way imaginable. He over-ran his time of five minutes by one and a half minutes, thanking the Scottish audience for placing Scottish bank notes in the collection! Perhaps he was justified.

The Speakers generally were very good indeed: One who was quiet, persuasive and pleasant, with clear enunciation appeared to read her speech, or else feared to let go her notes. I was bound to wonder if it was her speech or somebody else's. Another told us we should recognise Communist China, when I thought we had and did. A third managed to find the word 'legislation' when obviously 'regime' was the one which escaped her tongue.

There was a tendency to over-long quotations—some of them not very apt—and perorations were not always what they might have been.

Among the movers was the lad who got his eyes fixed on the *Daily Herald* poster on the wall and gave it a good talking to, without a glance at the audience. He too was perhaps justified.

Two others had to propose votes of thanks to their newly-wed spouses who were the speakers in the respective teams. One (the lad) I would like to hear doing the same job in about two years' time. The other (the lass) with great dignity

and (I thought) with an eye on the other females present, took care not to oversell her bargain!

Altogether the standard was very high. Rich in humanitarian outlook, spiced with humour and sometimes pathos too, these members of the League of Youth Public Speaking teams are the true descendants of our Socialist pioneers who will some day soon be in the vanguard of our Movement.

Scottish

W. G. MARSHALL

Salford Scores

EXACTLY 12 months ago special reference was made to the records achieved by the West Salford Constituency Labour Party.

All too frequently parties increase their memberships as a result of spasmodic campaigns but fail to hold the increased membership, because of the inadequacy of collecting machinery or for other reasons. It is a matter of congratulation therefore, to record the accomplishments of a party which, over a number of years has done consistently well in connection with membership.

The record of cards taken since 1945 is of interest: 1949, 3,970; 1950, 5,163; 1951, 5,827; 1952, 6,012; 1953, 5,830.

Perhaps more important than the total number of cards taken is the amount of subscriptions which are collected and the average subscriptions paid. In 1952 the income from individual membership was £1,168 19s. 4d., and in 1953 £1,207 11s. 4d. The following figures taken from the annual membership report are of special interest and demonstrate that not only can a large individual membership be built up but that the average amounts collected can be kept at a very high figure.

Ward	Average Subscriptions	
	per member	
	1952	1953
	s. d.	s. d.
Seedley	5 6	5 6
Claremont	5 5	5 2½
Weaste	4 6	4 2½
Langley	4 1	4 1½
Docks	4 1	4 2½
St. Paul's	5 2½	5 2½
St. Thomas's	4 0	4 4
Charlestown	5 5	5 9

Congratulations are due to all concerned with organisation in this constituency which has done so well over recent years.

North Western

R. C. WALLIS